First of a Series on

MYTHICAL ANIMALS

MYTHICAL ANIMALS - INTRODUCTION

by

JANE SHARPE

LORAIN STEPHENS

Raymond Foundation

Museum Stories, Number 227

March 1, 1952

Mythical Animals

Have you ever been afraid of the dark when you were lying in bed at night? Most of us will admit that at one time or another we have thought we saw some horrible animal sitting on the window sill or slinking out of the closet.

The beast that you see here was drawn from imagination. Of course this animal does not live. It has never existed. It's fun to imagine dreadful animals. Can you draw an animal that is more fierce looking than this one? Just as we sometimes imagine frightful animals, people thousands of years ago imagined many fantastic creatures to which they gave imaginary life. The only place these animals lived, of course, was in the minds and the songs and the stories

of these people. Some of these imaginary animals are like the real animals that the people knew. Others came straight from the minds of the storytellers and are like no living animal. The Chimera and hydras and dragons are mythical animals of this sort.

There is a tale of a dragon fight that took place in a pool in northern China about five centuries before Christ. The story tells how the vicious dragons "squirted fog over a distance of some miles." The Chinese people believed that the only way to stop such dreadful water battles was by lightning because no water spirit could endure for long the heat of lightning. So heaven sent the sacred fire of the lightnings to make the angry dragons stop troubling the clouds. It was thought that when these spiteful dragons teased the clouds a devastating storm raged over the earth and terrified the people, drowning many of them and destroying their land and property.

The mythical animals that resemble real animals are very interesting. The unicorn seems to have acquired his horn from the rhinoceros. The beautiful phoenix was dreamed of, perhaps, by someone who had seen a golden pheasant for the first time. Pegasus, the flying horse, is just someone's idea of a horse with wings like a bird. Another kind of imaginary beast is part animal and part human. The mermaid is a familiar example of this kind of creature. Mermaids are usually described as beautiful maidens with long flowing hair. Their home is in the sea and, instead of legs, they have scaly tails like fishes. According to legends mermaids spend most of their time sitting on rocks at the edge of the sea while they sing and comb their silken hair. The sphinx and the centaur are other mythical creatures that are part human and part animal.

You will read of many fabulous animals and strange happenings in the eight stories to follow this one. Remember that none of these animals is real, but that all of them were made up by people like you. See if you can make up stories about imaginary animals yourself. Perhaps you could start by thinking of a story to go with this picture.

This page is for your own notes and illustrations

Second of a Series on

MYTHICAL ANIMALS

THE DRAGON

by

JANE SHARPE

Raymond Foundation

CHICAGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
RESEARCH EDUCATION
FOUNDED 1893 BY MARSHALL FIELD

Museum Stories, Number 228

March 8, 1952

The Dragon

"A dragon is swallowing the sun," a man shouted in alarm. He was looking at an eclipse of the sun. An eclipse happens when the moon moves between the sun and the earth. Then for a few minutes the sun is hidden and everything is dark—day becomes night. When there is an eclipse, people in some parts of China even today believe that a hungry devil is hiding the sun and throw themselves on their knees and beat gongs to frighten it away, while here in the United States there could be a few people who still think that a monster is swallowing the light. During the next eclipse of the sun that can be seen in Chicago someone might say fancifully that a dragon is eating the sun.

The dragon was born in China several thousand years ago. It was just an idea, as you know, because the dragon is not a real animal. It doesn't live. It has never lived except in imagination. The Chinese call the dragon "lung." Some Chinese believe that the lung is alive now and plentiful, but we know that it is as mythical as the man in the moon. They even think that it is the largest of scaly animals and that it has nine times nine scales, which is the luckiest of numbers to them. Its scales are supposed to be like those of the carp fish.

The flesh of birds is the favorite food of dragons, and they are especially fond of sparrows and swallows. Dragons are afraid of only one animal. Do you know which animal that could be? It's the little centipede! The centipede is a relative of the insect and may or may not have a hundred legs. Maybe all those legs frighten the dragons.

The dragon is a symbol for water, and the breath of a dragon is said to make some of the clouds in the sky. Rain or fire may come from these clouds in the form of a destructive storm. They say that the eggs of dragons are those beautiful pebbles that can be picked up beside mountain brooks. These pebbles are safely kept by nature until they split during a thunderstorm. Then they set free young dragons that immediately go up to the sky.

According to accounts there are two kinds of dragons—those that have wings and those that are wingless. The winged dragons can fly only in a swift wind. Whirlwinds that carry heavy objects in the air and waterspouts in the sea are really excited dragons, they say, winging their way to the upper regions of the air. Dragons come thrashing out of smoking volcanic craters in their flights.

A Chinese author of the third century before Christ tells us that all the dragons in the world are placed so that each one of them has its own special territory, and he assures us that a dragon will not go beyond the boundaries of its own domain. This is the way people explained why in summer it

may rain very much in one place and yet not one raindrop will fall just a short distance away. Since early times people have blamed dragons for floods and storms. Lungs caused deluge and devastation by fighting in the water, it was said. But when they fought in the air, they caused thunderstorms. By creating these mythical dragons long ago, people put off puzzling questions about the weather and so delayed real studies of the problems.

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Third of a Series on

MYTHICAL ANIMALS

THE HYDRA

by

LORAIN STEPHENS

Raymond Foundation

Museum Stories, Number 229

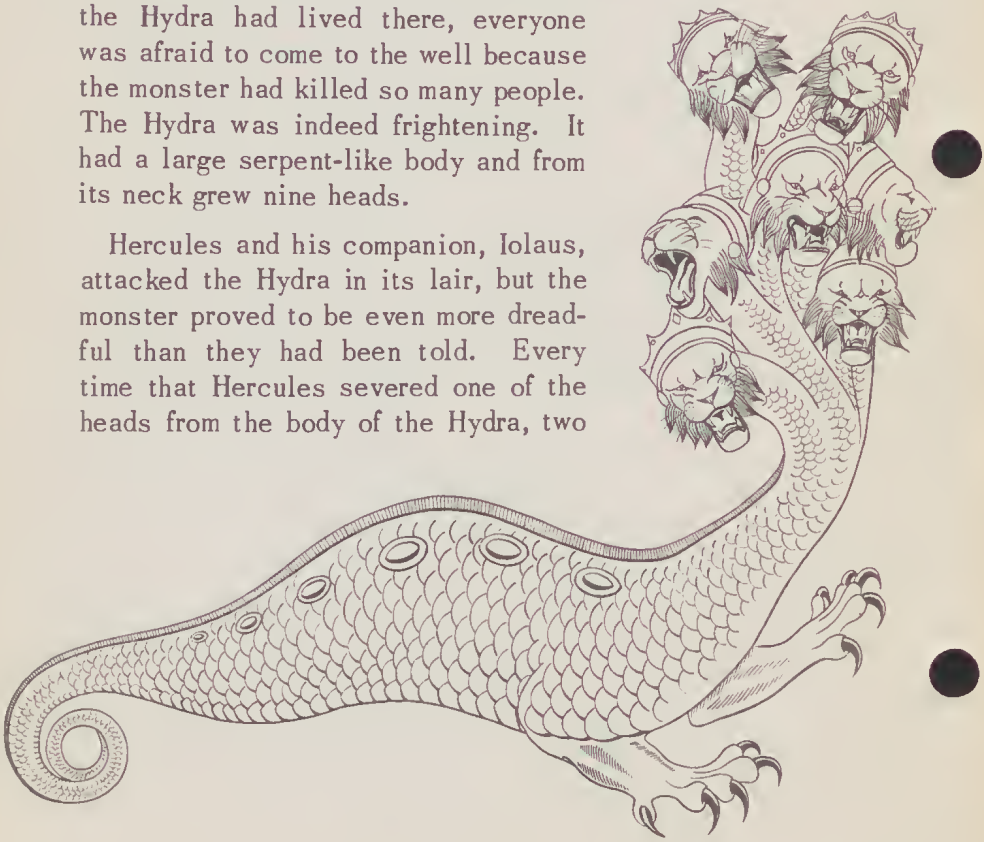
March 15, 1952

The Hydra

Everyone has heard of Hercules, the famous hero of Greek legends. Even when he was a baby, Hercules was so strong that he killed two huge serpents that were sent to his cradle to destroy him. As soon as he was grown, twelve tasks were given to him to perform, and any one of them would have been impossible for an ordinary person.

The first task was to kill a mighty lion, which Hercules did with his bare hands. The second task was even more difficult. He was to kill the strange and fearful monster, the Hydra. The Hydra lived in a swamp near the famous well of Amymone, which had miraculously flowed from bare rock when there was a drought in the country and the people were dying of thirst. But ever since the Hydra had lived there, everyone was afraid to come to the well because the monster had killed so many people. The Hydra was indeed frightening. It had a large serpent-like body and from its neck grew nine heads.

Hercules and his companion, Iolaus, attacked the Hydra in its lair, but the monster proved to be even more dreadful than they had been told. Every time that Hercules severed one of the heads from the body of the Hydra, two



more grew in its place. Finally Iolaus lighted a large torch. Then each time that Hercules cut off a head, Iolaus burned the wound with his torch and this prevented any more heads from growing. At last all the heads except one were burned, but the last head was immortal and could not be killed. After a great struggle, the two friends were able to take this most dangerous of all the heads and bury it under a large rock so that, even if it did not die, it could not cause any more harm. Because the blood of the Hydra was a deadly poison, Hercules dipped his arrows into it. These poisoned arrows helped Hercules in his later battles.

In Venice some people thought that the hydra was a real animal and drew a beautiful picture of it. They believed that in the year 550 a hydra was captured and brought out of Turkey and afterwards presented to the King of France. They thought that the presence of hydras signified a change in the affairs of the world, and they hoped that the finding of this hydra did not mean trouble for the Christian world in which they lived. But since the hydra's heads were crowned with Turk's caps and the animal came from Turkey, the people concluded that the Turkish government was doomed and not the Christian countries.

Of course there never has been such an animal as the hydra of the days of Hercules. But there is a very small animal that has been named hydra from the story of the mythical monster. If you look carefully, you might be able to discover this tiny creature in the water of a pond or lake. One end of the animal is attached to a stone or stick or the stem of a plant. The other end has six or eight tentacles that wave to and fro in the water, catching the tiny animals that the hydra eats.

You can see that the tentacles of the real hydra might remind people of the imaginary hydra with nine heads. Also, if one of the tentacles of the little living hydra is torn off, a new one will grow in its place. Even if the hydra is cut into several pieces, each piece will soon form a complete new hydra. So in some ways the real hydra is like the mythical creature for which it is named.

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Fourth of a Series on

MYTHICAL ANIMALS

THE MERMAID

by

LORAIN STEPHENS

Raymond Foundation

CHICAGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
RESEARCH EDUCATION
FOUNDED 1893 BY MARSHALL FIELD

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March 22, 1952

The Mermaid

Who has not heard of mermaids? These strange creatures, half human and half fish, have been with us in legends for many centuries. Since the days of the early Greeks, sailors have returned home from their voyages with tales about mermaids and mermen. Everyone who has read the story of the adventures of Ulysses, hero of Greek legend, remembers how he and his crew escaped from the Sirens.

The Sirens were beautiful mermaids who lived on a cliff at the edge of the sea. The beauty of the Sirens was known far and wide, and their voices were so sweet and haunting that every sailor who heard the Sirens sing fell under a spell and cast himself into the sea to drown. Ulysses had been warned, and so when he and his crew were approaching the fatal cliff he had his men stuff their ears with wax in order not to hear the alluring voices of the Sirens. In this way the whole crew passed by in safety.

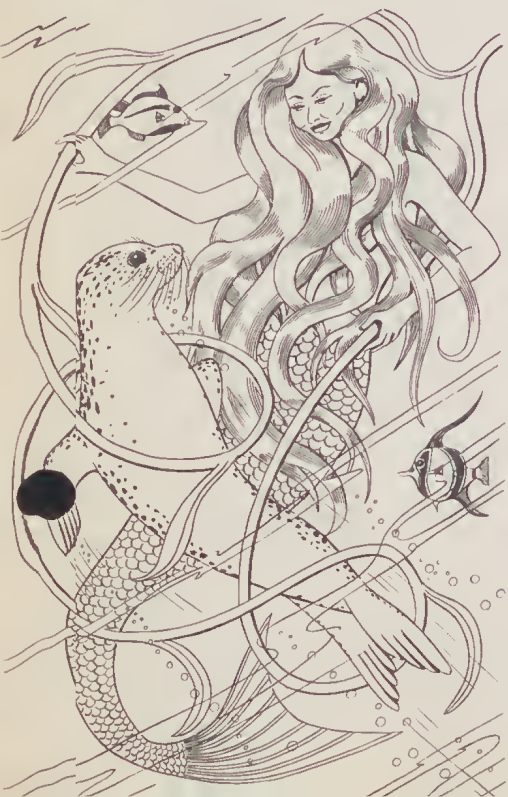
People in Holland sometimes tell a story about a Dutch mermaid. She was discovered, so the legend goes, when the dykes broke and the ocean flooded the lowlands. When the villagers went out to look at the damage done by the water, to their great astonishment they discovered a mermaid sitting in the flooded pasture. They captured her and kept her with them for many years. She was even taught to spin and to wear Dutch clothes like the other villagers. But for all their efforts they could not teach her to talk, and she died without having ever spoken a word.

Perhaps it does not seem very strange that people of long ago believed in such peculiar creatures as mermaids. But less than one hundred years ago thousands of people paid to see a stuffed mermaid in London, the largest city in the world. What they spent so much money to see was, of course, a clever fake. The head, shoulders, and arms of a monkey had been sewed to the dried body of a salmon. Then the whole object had been touched up and shellacked and presented to the public as a real mermaid. Such mermaids are made in Japan as curios to sell to sailors.

How did it happen that so many people believed there were such creatures as mermaids? Perhaps most people were fooled in the same way Christopher Columbus was. When he and his comrades crossed the ocean on their famous voyage that resulted in the discovery of America, Columbus wrote in the ship's log that mermaids had been sighted on the coast of the island of Santo Domingo.

Columbus and his sailors undoubtedly saw the strange animal known as the sea cow or manatee that lives in the ocean along seacoasts and swims by means of its tail and flippers. It is about the size of a small person, and often it will come to the surface and float with only its head and shoulders above the water. Sometimes a mother manatee will hold a baby manatee against her body above the water somewhat as a human mother would hold her child.

If you saw a manatee at a distance, you might easily mistake it for a creature half human and half fish, although when you came up to it you would probably think that its face is ugly. You may not be able to find any manatees, but you could look at the seals the next time you visit the zoo to see if they remind you of mermaids. You can imagine a seal sitting on a rock in the ocean. If you saw it from far away, its flippers and small head might make you think of a mermaid. Probably in the old days sailors sometimes imagined the same thing.



Even though there is no such thing as a mermaid, it is fun to read about mermaids and to think about the days long ago when sailors came home from the sea and thrilled their families with stories of such fabulous creatures.

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Fifth of a Series on

MYTHICAL ANIMALS

PEGASUS AND THE CHIMERA

by

JANE SHARPE

Raymond Foundation

Museum Stories, Number 231

March 29, 1952

Pegasus and the Chimera

All of you know animals that can fly. Birds are fliers and insects and bats can fly. There are mythical animals—animals that never really were—that can fly, too. Of course you will think of the reindeer that run through the sky; they pull the sleigh of Santa Claus. But did you know there was a horse that could fly in the sky?

The flying horse is like all the other animals in these stories. He can live only in your daydreams because he was not a real live horse. The ancient Greeks who imagined the flying horse named him Pegasus. He was a handsome horse. Only he was more wonderful than one of our horses could be, for he had beautiful wings and he could fly.

Pegasus had a very strange beginning. Medusa was a dreadful monster who had hissing serpents instead of hair. She was very cruel and destroyed everything in her path. But no one was able to kill her because no one could look at her without being changed into a stone statue. Now all around the cave where Medusa lived stood the stone figures of the animals and people who had caught a glimpse of her. These petrified animals and people were a strange and terrifying sight to see. Finally a young man came to save them. He cut off Medusa's head, and the blood that sank into the earth brought forth Pegasus, the flying horse.

Then Pegasus was needed to help Bellerophon, a young man who had been given the task of killing the terrible Chimera. It was supposed to be impossible to kill her because she was a frightful monster that breathed out fire like an erupting volcanic fiend. The front part of her body was part lion and part goat, and the rest of her body looked like a dragon. Her fiery breath was so hot that it burned up everyone who tried to kill her. The Chimera not only killed people with her breath but she also burned plants and animals and everything else in her path. Because she was so bad and so destructive, the King told Bellerophon to kill the awful monster. Of course this assignment worried Bellerophon. So he asked advice of a soothsayer, who told

him that he must use Pegasus in the battle. Even catching Pegasus was supposed to be impossible because Pegasus was very wild. However, the goddess Minerva gave Bellerophon a magic golden bridle and also showed him where the flying horse was drinking at a well. When Pegasus saw the golden bridle, he was easy to catch, for he suddenly changed from a wild horse to a gentle one. The bridle seemed to cast a magic spell over him.

Then brave Bellerophon mounted the winged horse and they flew like the wind up into the air. They rode high over the Chimera's fiery breath, and with great skill Bellerophon was able to kill the destructive monster. Because of this victory Bellerophon became very proud and made many more conquests. But when he tried to fly into heaven on the winged horse, he failed. Zeus, chief of the gods, was very angry at Bellerophon's boldness, and so he sent a gadfly that stung Pegasus and made him throw his rider.

Without his rider, Pegasus flew into the air and up to the stable of Zeus. Then Zeus harnessed Pegasus to the thunder chariot, and when you hear thunder you know that Pegasus is drawing the chariot of thunder across the sky. But Pegasus has returned to earth only once since he flew into heaven. On this trip his hoof struck the earth, and from that spot bubbled a refreshing spring called Hippocrene.

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Sixth of a Series on

MYTHICAL ANIMALS

THE SPHINX

by

LORAIN STEPHENS

Raymond Foundation

CHICAGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
RESEARCH EDUCATION
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Museum Stories, Number 232

April 5, 1952

The Sphinx

See if you can guess the answer to this riddle: What is it that in the morning walks on four legs, at noon walks on two legs, and at night walks on three legs? If you were a citizen of the ancient Greek city of Thebes and you had failed to answer this riddle correctly, you might have paid the penalty of losing your life.

Here is the legend about the riddle. The storytellers say that once upon a time the mighty city of Thebes was in great trouble. The people who lived there were afraid to leave their houses, and travelers avoided the city as if a plague were raging through the streets. The cause of this fear was a monster. It had a woman's head and shoulders, a bird's wings, and a lion's body.

The name of this awful creature was the Sphinx. She sat outside the city of Thebes on a cliff that overlooked the main highway into the town. Whenever anyone walked along the road, the Sphinx would stop him and ask him the riddle: What is it that in the morning walks on four legs, at noon walks on two legs, and at night walks on three legs? If the person could answer the riddle, the Sphinx would let him go on his way; but if he failed to give the proper reply, she ate him. The riddle was so difficult that no one had been able to solve it, and everyone that had been challenged had become a meal for the cruel monster.

Finally a young man, who had been born in Thebes but who had not been back to his birthplace for many years, came journeying along the highway. He had been warned of the Sphinx but he thought, like many others before him, that he could answer her riddle. When he came into view, the Sphinx challenged him with her question.

The young man, whose name was Oedipus, thought for a few minutes and then he gave this solution: "The answer is man," he said, "because man crawls on all fours in the morning of his life when he is a baby, he walks on two legs in the noon of his life, and in the evening of his life when he is old he walks with a staff to help him." This proved to be the right answer, and the Sphinx was so humiliated at having her riddle solved that she threw herself from the cliff and perished. The people of Thebes were so grateful to Oedipus that they made him the king of the city.

The Greeks probably got their ideas of the Sphinx from the Egyptians. You may have heard more about the sphinxes of Egypt than about the Greek one. The most famous Egyptian sphinx is the Great Sphinx, which still stands at the entrance of the Valley of the Nile. Its huge body is 172 feet long and its head is 66 feet high.

This monster, crouched on the desert sands, was carved out of solid rock almost five thousand years ago. It has the body and paws of a lion but its head is a portrait of King Khafre, who had the Great Sphinx built by his slaves before the pyramid that is his tomb. The ever-moving sands have blown against the Great Sphinx, and now its beard and nose are worn away. Besides the Great Sphinx there are many smaller Egyptian sphinxes, which are usually placed in pairs at the entrances to temples.

The fable of the sphinx also reached China. During the T'ang dynasty Persians, Arabs, and Buddhists could all be found in the courts. Along with the customs and ideas that they brought to China were stories of strange mythical creatures. Chinese artists were fascinated with the Persian stories of the sphinx, and for this reason the Chinese statues of the sphinx always resemble the Persian ones.

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Seventh of a Series on

MYTHICAL ANIMALS

THE CENTAUR

by

JANE SHARPE

Raymond Foundation

Museum Stories, Number 233

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The Centaur

When the first Spanish soldiers explored Mexico, many of them were riding horses. The Mexicans saw these odd people approaching. But horrors! They were part of terrifying monsters! When each monster stopped, it dissolved into two creatures—a pale man and a strange four-legged animal. Of course you know that the four-legged creature was a horse. These Mexicans had never before seen a horse. It is easy to picture how confused they must have been.

Centuries before the Spanish explorers discovered Central America, the ancient Greeks had the idea of a mythical animal that was half man and half horse. This outlandish creature was called a centaur. There were two kinds of centaurs—the friendly and wise centaurs, who were the companions of the Greek heroes, and the wild and lawless centaurs, who went thundering across the land. The Greeks were too fond of horses to think that combining a horse with a man would be degrading to mankind, and so these fanciful monsters were given some good characteristics.

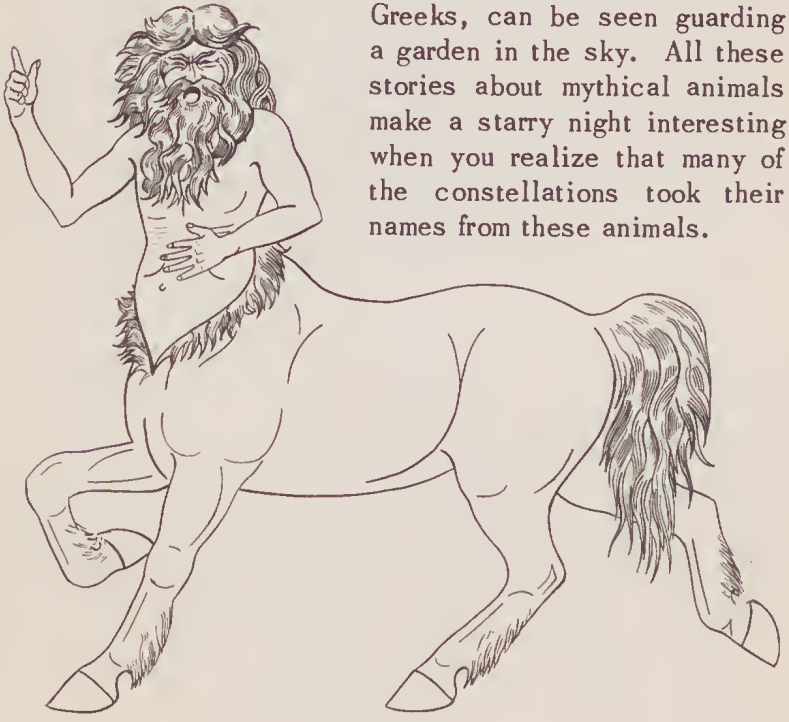
One centaur, named Chiron, was a very intelligent creature. In fact, he was one of the most important citizens. He was skilled in hunting and in medicine and in music, and he taught many of the Greek heroes. He even taught gods, for one of his pupils was Aesculapius, a future god, who became so famous a physician that he was said to have performed the miracle of bringing the dead back to life. The gods grew jealous of Aesculapius, and so they sent lightning that struck and killed him. Then the envious gods relented and made Aesculapius the god of medicine. After this it was thought that he could be found on the earth in the form of a snake. Even today the symbol of medicine is a club-like staff with a serpent coiled about it.

Chiron was the most wise and just of all the centaurs and therefore he was the most loved. When Chiron died, the chief of the gods placed him among the stars in the sky. There you can see Chiron, the wise and friendly centaur, as a star in the constellation Sagittarius.

Tonight if the weather is clear so that you can see the stars, look at the sky and you will see some stars that are brighter than others. These brighter stars can be divided into groups called constellations, and by knowing the groups it is easier to find individual stars.

Ancient peoples used to spend a great deal of their time looking at the stars. Many of the shepherds slept outdoors while tending their sheep, and the science of astronomy had its beginnings in their observations. Astronomy is a science that describes the stars and all of the heavenly bodies. While lying on the ground at night, the shepherds would watch the stars and talk about them, and in that way the stories about the stars grew and grew.

Because the stars were so remote and so mysterious, the ancient peoples named them after mythical animals. Pegasus, the winged horse, is still galloping in the sky. You can see this constellation on summer nights. Also the dragon called Draco, who was known to the Greeks, can be seen guarding a garden in the sky. All these stories about mythical animals make a starry night interesting when you realize that many of the constellations took their names from these animals.



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Eighth of a Series on

MYTHICAL ANIMALS

THE PHOENIX

by

LORAIN STEPHENS

Raymond Foundation

Museum Stories, Number 234

April 19, 1952

The Phoenix

Imagine, if you can, a strange and wonderful bird about the size of an American eagle. It has brilliant golden plumage around its neck, its body is a deep purple, and its long, graceful tail feathers are a deep blue intermingled with rose. On its throat is a ring of feathers and on its head a bright tuft like that of the peacock.

Have you ever seen a bird that would fit this description? Of course you haven't, and no one else has either. There is only one bird like this and it lives only in legends. It is called the phoenix. The people of ancient Rome believed

in the actual existence of the phoenix. The Roman senator Manilius wrote about the fabulous bird. He had never seen it himself, but travelers in Arabia had told him amazing tales about it. They claimed that the phoenix was as sacred as the sun and that, although some had seen it flying in the desert, no one had ever seen it eat.

This is the story that Senator Manilius heard about the phoenix and believed. The beautiful phoenix lives on the rolling sands of the Arabian desert. The phoenix is not like other birds and animals because there is no flock of phoenixes nor even a pair. There is only one phoenix in all the world. It lives not for five or ten or one hundred years but for 540 years. When its long life is almost over and it

grows old, it flies about the desert and gathers sprigs of incense and all sorts of sweet-smelling herbs, which it piles into a great nest. Then the phoenix lies down upon the nest and dies, and immediately the nest bursts into flames. Soon nothing is left of bird or nest but a pile of ashes. Now comes the strangest part of the story. As the ashes cool, a small worm-like creature develops from the burned bones and marrow of the dead phoenix. Slowly the worm changes until it takes the form of a little bird. As the bird grows bigger, it becomes more and more beautiful until at last it is the living image of its father, the dead phoenix. The first task of the young phoenix is to practice carrying a load of sticks and spices until it is strong enough to carry the ashes of its father. When it can do this, it carries them to the sacred City of the Sun and leaves them there as an offering on the altar.

Senator Manilius thought that the 540-year life-span of the phoenix was equal to one great day in the life of the world. He said that when the old phoenix died and the new phoenix came to life the world started all over again in a new day and that in the next 540 years everything would happen just as it had during the past 540 years.

When Emperor Claudius ruled Rome about two thousand years ago, a bird was brought to the city and exhibited to the people as a phoenix. Of course we know now that it wasn't the real creature because the phoenix has never existed. Some think that the bird on display was really a golden pheasant. Probably the Romans had never seen a pheasant before, as these birds come from far-away China. The Romans may have believed that this strange bird was a real phoenix because of its beautiful colors.

The Chinese people knew about the phoenix also, and many pictures of it can be seen in Chinese art. In the old days the Empress of China wore several little models of the phoenix on her hat. The bird was sacred to the Empress because it represented the idea of life after death. This idea came from the story that the new phoenix always rose from the ashes of its dead father.

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Ninth of a Series on

MYTHICAL ANIMALS

THE UNICORN

by

JANE SHARPE

Raymond Foundation

Museum Stories, Number 235

April 26, 1952

The Unicorn

The story of the unicorn is very old. It is almost as old as history itself. Men have sung and written about unicorns for thousands of years. Do you know what a unicorn is? Here is the story.

The early Greek authors wrote about a white horse with a red head and blue eyes and a horn on its forehead that was a foot and one-half long. They called this strange animal the unicorn, "uni" meaning one and "corn" meaning horn. All this happened in the fourth century before Christ, if you can imagine so long ago. The ancient Romans also believed in the unicorn, but their unicorn had the body of a horse, the head of a deer, the feet of an elephant, and the tail of a boar. This odd animal was found mostly in the mountains of India and Ethiopia, and it was said to be so swift and savage that it could not be captured.

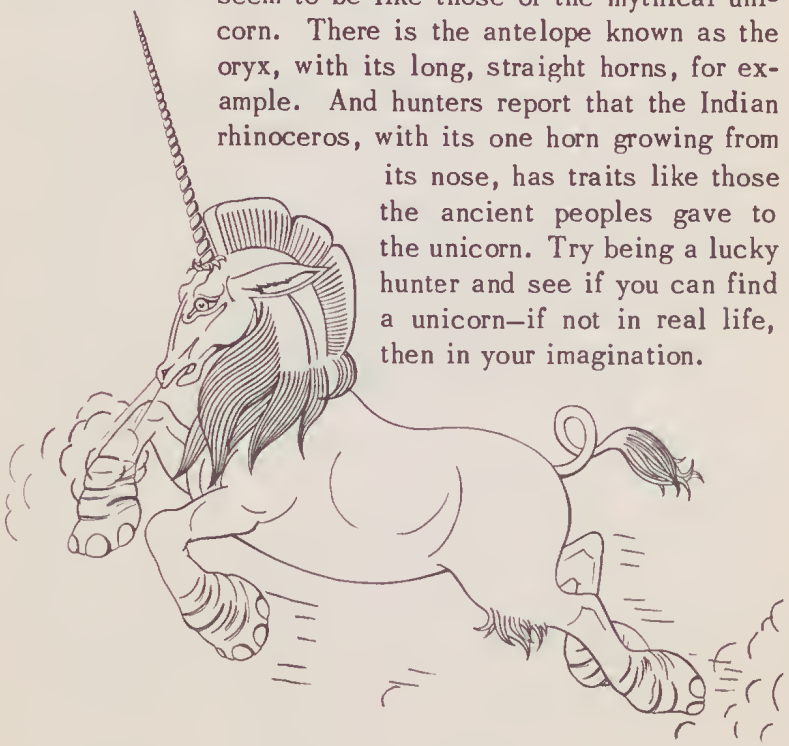
The unicorn was a sad puzzle to hunters because they were never able to catch one. Hunters felt that they were lucky when they just saw a unicorn. You, too, can hunt for the unicorn. But the only place you will find it is in the library, for the unicorn lives only in books. There you will see that the fabulous horn of the unicorn was long and strong. It was thought to use this horn for spearing elephants and as a weapon in time of danger. Also, the horn provided a sure way to escape. When a hunter pursued the unicorn, it simply ran to the highest cliff and dove off head first. It landed on its strong horn, bounding and rebounding like a rubber ball, and so escaped unhurt.

The unicorn's birthplace was in China. The Chinese call their unicorn the kilin. It was not a native of China but was said to come from far away, probably from heaven. The Chinese believe that there aren't too many kilins because they only come to earth at long intervals of time, and so the appearance of a kilin is supposed to be a good omen. The very first kilin was reported to have been seen in China about forty-six hundred years ago, and people thought that its visit to China brought national happiness.

The Chinese kilins do not look like the Roman or Greek unicorns. Kilins have the body of a stag and the solid hoof of a horse, and on their bodies are scales like those of a fish. The kilin was one of the most intelligent of animals. Even though it was not so popular as the dragon, the Chinese called it the King of Beasts.

In contrast to the Roman and Greek unicorns, which, you remember, were wild and ferocious animals that terrified everyone, the Chinese kilins were the personification of gentleness. The kilin never ate a living thing, not even a leaf or the bark of a tree. It would not tread on an insect or a living blade of grass.

Now what animal do you think that the ancient peoples saw and gave the name of unicorn? Many of the horns displayed in the Middle Ages as the horns of unicorns were really the tusks of the narwhal, one of the smaller arctic whales. Various living animals have characteristics that seem to be like those of the mythical unicorn. There is the antelope known as the oryx, with its long, straight horns, for example. And hunters report that the Indian rhinoceros, with its one horn growing from its nose, has traits like those the ancient peoples gave to the unicorn. Try being a lucky hunter and see if you can find a unicorn—if not in real life, then in your imagination.



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